Well, the top news of my week came with a phone call from Lisa Williams on Thursday morning. She let me know that JSU had been awarded $250,000 to purchase a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer. This was congressionally directed funding, thanks to Representative Mike Rogers. The NMR spectrometer, measuring the magnetic moments of atomic nuclei, can be used to determine the shape of rather large molecules. Thus, molecules as large as small proteins, can have the shape determined by NMR spectroscopy. The spectrometer is important for our chemistry program. The American Chemical Society (ACS) feels that an NMR spectrometer is such an essential piece of equipment in chemistry, that every chemistry program should offer their students hands-on experience using an NMR spectrometer. Thus, the spectrometer is an essential step to have our chemistry degree accredited by the ACS.

Additionally, please note the deadlines given below. With Spring Break on 15-19 March, many of these deadlines are rapidly approaching—in particular the deadline for the nomination of faculty for Faculty Awards, due on 24 March.

--Lou

Department News

Off to Wuhan 武汉
Professor David Steffy has been selected to be one of two representatives from JSU to go to Wuhan University in China this May. Congratulations David and Bon Voyage!

Deadlines and Dates to Remember
Faculty Research Grants, due at Dean's office 10 March
Faculty Awards Nominations 24 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April
Chili Cook-Off
Well, first place for the best Chili was Kelly Greg, second place was MJ Ortiz-Morales and Pinkey Silwal and third place was won by Tracy Casey. The pottery was awarded by the luck of the draw, with Gina Mabrey, Jonathan Herbert, Liz Maxwell and Tracy Casey, each winning pottery. The Chili cook-off raised $407 for the American Cancer Society. Beta, Beta, Beta came with $212.57 and added $110 to their total from the bake sale for the esophageal cancer research at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in the name of Frank Romano. Great work to everyone who contributed. Enjoy the photos.

Congratulations Jacob Boydston
Congratulations to Jacob, majoring in Chemistry and Biology on being accepted into the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University (one of the top ranked schools by US News and World Report).

Chemistry Lectures at the Univ. of Alabama
Professor Guy Bertrand, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the Univ. of California, Riverside will present two lectures at 1093 Shelby Hall on the Univ. of Alabama campus. The lectures are: Novel, Stable non-Arduengo Carbenes and Related Species (a technical talk at 12:30 PM on Thursday 25 March) and Bending the Rules (a general audience lecture at 3:00 PM on Friday 26 March). There is also an open, informal reception at 4:00 in the Shelby Hall rotunda immediately following the Friday lecture. You are all invited, no RSVP is requested.

Student News

ACS Student Affiliate
Blood Drive on 12 March
Sign up in the mail room. All presenting volunteer blood donors will be automatically entered into a quarterly drawing for a $1000 gift card. Please bring a photo ID.
Free Ice Cream Day on March 5

University News

Jazz Legends Duffy Jackson, Dave Fernandez in Concert March 6
The JSU Jazz Orchestra is proud to welcome back Jazz legends Duffy Jackson and Dave Fernandez, who will lend their talents for a very special Big Band Jazz Concert in Mason Hall on Saturday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 ($5 w/student ID).

Faculty Teaching Distance Education Courses
The Office of Distance Education is seeking faculty who teach a distance education course and are interested in serving as a member of a NEW Distance Education Faculty Focus Group. For more information please go to http://www.jsu.edu/distance/de_fac_focus_grp.html

World-Renowned Chef, Restaurateur and Cookbook Author Chef Mai Pham to Bring Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine to Hopper Dining Hall March 8-12
The Hopper Dining Hall will feature Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine: A Magical Experience featuring the signature flavors of world-renowned chef, restaurateur and cookbook author Chef Mai Pham during the week of March 8-12.

Faculty Senate Seeks Faculty Awards Nominations (Due 24 March)
The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:
• Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
• Outstanding Teacher Award
• Ringer Faculty Development Award
• Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service
• Faculty Research Activity
All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to Faculty Awards for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 11.

Degenerate States

$hit, I missed
A Catholic priest and a nun were taking a rare afternoon off and enjoying a round of golf. The priest stepped up to the first tee and took a mighty swing. He missed the ball entirely and said "$hit, I missed."
The good Sister told him to watch his language.
On his next swing, he missed again. "$hit, I missed."
"Father, I'm not going to play with you if you keep swearing," the nun said tartly.
The priest promised to do better and the round continued.
On the 4th tee, he misses again. The usual comment followed.
Sister Marie is really mad now and says, "Father John, God is going to strike you dead if you keep swearing like that."
On the next tee, Father John swings and misses again. "$h!†, I missed."
A terrible rumble is heard and a gigantic bolt of lightning comes out of the sky and strikes Sister Marie dead in her tracks.
And from the sky comes a booming voice ... ....
"$h!†, I missed."

[Contributed by N. Zettili]

[One of the chemists asked for a "solution guide" to the degenerate states. We offer the following, instead.]

**TOP TEN SIGNS THAT INDICATE YOU MIGHT BE A CHEMIST**

10. You named your firstborn after one of the lanthanides, and then felt compelled to have more until you had the whole set
9. When you had an unexpected sixteenth child, you just had to name him actinium, and now you’re not sure how to stop
8. You know that Anal. Chem. is not the title of a raunchy video
7. You’re a chemist if you wash your hands BEFORE you use the bathroom
6. You played with explosives as a kid - and still have all you’re fingers
5. You are distilling your own ethanol
4. You just heard another explosion without it bothering you!
3. You think that fresh air smells bad
2. You pronounce "unionized" with 4 syllables....
And the number one sign...
1. You keep a picture of Mme. Curie over your desk -- and it turns you on

**Contact Details**

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact **Tracy Casey** before noon on Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.